expressed amongst different sections of people pertaining to the proposed new TADA law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The law Commission of India has submitted the Draft Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2000. The draft Bill has been circulated to all State Governments/UT Administrations, for their comments on the provision of the Bill. It is correct that same apprehensions have been expressed in various quarters relating to possible misuse of powers proposed to be given to the investigating agencies. However, Government will hold made consultations with the State Government, political parties, other groups etc. before a view is finalised in the matter. No time frame can be laid within which the Bill would be introduced for consideration by Parliament.

Land for Construction of NEC Buildings

1132. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-East Council received land for construction of its buildings;

(b) if so, the area of available land; and

(c) if not, the steps taken for having its own land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of answer to (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) The North-Eastern Council has taken steps to acquire suitable plots of land in Shillong for setting up the Secretariat and staff quarters.

Confidence Building Measures among Minorities

1133. SHRI DIPANKER MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures being taken by Government towards confidence building in the minds of religious minorities in the country in the wake of series of criminal and murderous attacks on them by religious fanatics;

(b) whether Government are considering to call all party meeting to discuss and evolve a strategy to combat such attacks; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Although as per the provisions of the VIIth Schedule, List-II,—State List of the Constitution of India, Law and Order is a State subject, the Central Govt. has been sharing intelligence inputs and sending advisories and alert messages to the States from time to time. Detailed Guidelines for the Promotion of Communal harmony were sent to all the State/UTs. On 04-07-2000, a high-level meeting was convened with Home Secretaries, DGPs and DG/IG (Intelligence) of Govt. of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, U.P. and Orissa, where the issue of attacks on Churches were discussed. The State Govts. were urged to provide protection to the minorities particularly Christians and their institutions and to deal with firmly with the perpetrators of violence against them. The Govt. is committed to safeguarding the interests of the minorities, and to bring to book the perpetrators of violence against them.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Govt.

Inflammatory Speeches by Fundamentalists

1134. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that minority communities, especially the Christians of late, are becoming victims of atrocities by some extremist fundamentalists;

(b) whether the leaders of these groups are openly making provocative and inflammatory threats to the members of this community;

(c) whether these threatening statements are being published in the press and not denied by these fundamentalist extremist organisations; and

(d) if so, what action have been taken by Government in this regard?